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When Rubber Meets the Road: Rethinking Your Library Collections

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Ithaka S + R

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John Hopkins Medicine

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Duke University Press

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bandwidth to handle it. Chi: Maybe data should be vetted in a bottom-up process by institutions or disciplines? Scholarly societies need to provide guidance.) How is scholarly publishing changing? (Chi – publication at the article level – don't wait until x number of articles are collected. Books should be alive, and they're dead until publication. Anderson: Blogs are alive, self-publishing is flourishing, and lack of interaction between authors and readers is anachronistic. Plutchak: Differences between books and journals are fading. Everything is a serial, and everything is a database.) What kinds of people are needed in scholarly publishing? (Chi: People with subject expertise who know technology and who can envision secondary uses for primary content. Anderson: People in all aspects of publishing – editorial and business – for whom technology is second nature. Plutchak – People who can rethink the scholarly publishing model because any publisher who depends on growth from the academic library market is in trouble.

No solutions were reached, but the discussion was lively and thought-provoking, and a real dialogue developed between panelists.

WHEN RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD: RETHINKING YOUR LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Speakers: *Roger Schonfeld* - Research Manager, Ithaka S+R; *Sue Woodson* - Associate Director of Digital Collection Services, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins Medicine

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This plenary session discussed two experiences in navigating the transition to electronic-only content, from the perspective of a content provider and a librarian. Schonfeld began by presenting findings from the 2009 Ithaka S+R Faculty Survey (<http://www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/faculty-surveys-2000-2009/Faculty%20Study%202009.pdf>) which questions faculty readiness to move to a fully electronic model. Schonfeld predicts that faculty will evolve more slowly than other end-users and that the librarian will assume an even more vital role in the world of electronic content for this reason. Schonfeld went on to present measures that Ithaka S+R has taken to provide content preservation options and the challenges encountered in catering to a diverse community of libraries.

Woodson presented the experience of the John Hopkins Welch Medical Library in moving towards becoming an entirely digital space. Woodson walked the audience through the history of this transition, beginning in 2000 with a user study that was conducted to better utilize the library's space and ending with the library's recent charge of reducing 80% of print holdings by 2012. Woodson offered insight into the many challenges and rewards experienced by the library throughout this process, including the move from providing content to providing services, changes in staffing, and the overarching question of what a library space is and how it can be most effectively utilized in the electronic world.